(b) whether this matter was brought to the notice of Public Enterprises Selection Board, the Appointment Committee of Cabinet and BIFR; and

(c) if so, what is the present position of the above case and whether similar cases of extension exist in respect of other P.S.Us/Boards/Committees under his Minstry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Though the approved tenure of appointment of the present CMD, Cement Corporation of India (CCI) was upto 1.1.99, he continues to remain in the post on the basis of an order passed by the Delhi High Court on 31.12.98. Necessary action regarding extension or otherwise of the tenure of the concerned official beyong the approved period was initiated by the Ministry in advance as per the prescribed procedure.

(b) The matter has already been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. BIFR is not concerned with the matter.

(c) Certain Writ petitions filed by the present CMD, CCI are still pending before the Delhi High Court and the next hearing of the case is scheduled for 24.3.99. In its earlier order dated 31.12.98, the High Court has, inter alia, directed that 'till the next date status quo with respect to the petitioner's post, namely, CMD/CCI shall continue to be maintained'. The present incumbent is accordingly continuing in the post of CMD, CCI as the matter is sub-judice.

There is no similar case in respect of other PSUs/Boards/committees under the Department of Heavy Industry.

Revival of PSUs

2082. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CABINET STALLS MOVE TO CLOSE EIGHT PSUs" which appeared in the Statesmen, dated 24th February, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) is being reviewed to ensure necessary manpower and expertise to run the revived units;

(c) whether adequate provision has been made for non-plan support till a final decision on revival of these units; and

(d) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to extend by another 3 months the initial offer of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS). Government have also decided to set up a group of experts to review the possibilities of revival of atleast some of these units.

(c) and (d) Non-Plan support is being provided to these units within the budgetary constraints for meeting their financial requirements.

Revival of SSIs

2083. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted an eight point plant for revival of Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated for being taken on these recommendations so as to make our SSI units functional in the changing scenario of globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CII has submitted an eight